New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

FACT SHEET

May 2002

State Finalizes Remedy For The Former Bossert Manufacturing Facility Operable Unit #2

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), recently selected a No Further Action, with engineering and institutional controls in the form of deed restrictions, remedy to address the contamination for Operable Unit #2 (OU#2) at the Former Bossert Manufacturing Facility in the City of Utica, New York.

Actual or threatened release of hazardous waste constituents from this site have been addressed by implementing the interim remedial measure identified in the Record of Decision (ROD), therefore the site no longer represents a current or potential significant threat to public health and the environment.

Site Location and Description

The Bossert site is located at 1002 Oswego Street in the City of Utica, Oneida County, New York (see figure). The site consists of an abandoned 210,000 square foot production facility located on a 6.9 acre parcel. This NYSDEC Class 2 Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site (Code No. 6-33-029) is located in a mixed industrial, commercial, and residential area known as West Utica. The Mohawk River is located down gradient from and slightly more than one mile to the north of the site. From approximately 1896 to 1985, Bossert fabricated and welded sheet metal products such as brake plates and steel floor grates. The site was connected to public water, public sewage and gas.

Site History

Operational/Disposal History

The Bossert site, while in production, utilized polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oils in electrical transformers and in hydraulic presses. Manufacturing processes, waste disposal practices, and machinery salvage operations performed subsequent to the facility closure reportedly resulted in the spread of PCB residues.

Remedial History

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) conducted emergency clean-up activities within the buildings in 1987. The USEPA sampled and disposed off site significant quantities of PCB contaminated hazardous waste. During the early 1990's the City of Utica investigated the Bossert buildings and found PCBs, asbestos and mercury contamination. Twenty-eight metal stamping presses were contaminated with PCBs and related hazardous waste was stored within a portion of the buildings. This investigation work was funded by the NYSDEC through the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act Title 3 Program. On June 3, 1993 a geophysical survey was conducted at the Bossert site resulting in the discovery of a 30,000 gallon underground storage tank (UST). The UST and its contents were excavated, removed and properly disposed off site in February of 1995 by the City of Utica.

The USEPA conducted an additional clean-up activity between 1997 and 1998. The USEPA drained and externally decontaminated the 28 metal stamping presses and cleaned the sumps below each press prior to filling and sealing each sump. Asbestos abatement throughout the buildings was conducted (excluding the roof) and the mercury waste in the boiler room (Area 8) was remediated. The 28 large metal stamping presses were not removed at this time. In the Spring of 2001 the NYSDEC completed the removal of the 28 metal stamping presses and a soil removal Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) to address the contaminated soils. The Bossert buildings remained in place and were in poor structural condition.

Site Characterization

In the Fall of 1998 a subsurface site characterization (SC) was conducted by the NYSDEC. Surface soils, subsurface soils (including under the building slabs), groundwater and the storm drains were investigated. A report entitled "Former Bossert Manufacturing Facility Site Soil Characterization Report, August 2000" has been prepared by NYSDEC which describes the field activities and findings of the SC in detail. The SC included the following activities:

- Installation of 32 Geoprobe soil borings and analysis of subsurface soils (including under the building slabs) as well as physical properties of the soil.
- Installation of eight monitoring wells and 15 miniwells for analysis of groundwater as well as physical properties and hydrogeologic conditions.
- Collection of 74 subsurface soil samples from the monitoring well borings and analysis of soils.
- Collection of 38 surface soil samples and 6 sediment samples from catch basins/manholes and related analysis.
- Collection of 8 Passive In-Situ Chemical Extraction Sampler (PISCES) water samples from Nail Creek and related analysis.
- Removal of two 3000 gallon underground storage tanks (USTs).

Interim Remedial Measures

An Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) is conducted at a site when a source of contamination or exposure pathway can be effectively addressed before completion of a site investigation. An IRM was undertaken at the Bossert site in response to the results of the SC.

This IRM included the removal and proper off site disposal of surface soil and subsurface soil contaminated with inorganic compounds (metals), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). In addition, USTs and the related soil around them were removed and properly disposed off site. The following is a summary of the remedial work completed in the IRM during the fall of 2000:

- Two underground storage tanks (USTs) were found and removed. Contaminated soil was also excavated and properly disposed off site to meet the environmental standards, criteria, and guidance values (SCGs).
- All underground piping that was encountered was excavated and disposed at a permitted off site facility.
- The contaminated soil around a third UST (previously decommissioned in place) was removed and properly disposed off site.
- 4 locations were excavated to depth (2 ft. to 7 ft.) to remove contaminated subsurface soils (PCBs, 2-butanone).
- Confirmatory sampling during the subsurface soil excavation was conducted and additional soil excavation was done until the SCGs were met.
- Storm drain piping and related catch basins (6) and manholes (5) were cleaned to meet the SCGs.
- Contaminated surface soil was removed (1 ft. depth) throughout the site (except Area 24) including the soil adjacent to the sidewalks around the buildings to meet the SCGs for PCBs, SVOCs and metals. The excavated soil was replaced with clean fill material.
- Area 24 was covered with a minimum of 1 foot of cover material (crushed stone) to meet the SCGs. Maintenance of this protective cover is necessary.

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Elements of the Selected Remedy

The NYSDEC has selected No Further Action with engineering and institutional controls in the form of deed restrictions as the remedy for the site. The owner of the site (City of Utica) will be required to execute an Order on Consent to implement and enforce the following engineering and institutional controls/deed restrictions:

1. notification to the NYSDEC prior to site development and change in ownership,
2. restriction of use of on-site groundwater as a potable or process water without necessary water quality treatment as determined by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH),
3. submission of a demolition debris management plan to the NYSDEC that will address the proper handling and disposal of the deteriorating Bossert buildings as a result of any development at the site,
4. prior to any site development, submission of a soils management plan to the NYSDEC that will identify the proper management, characterization and disposal of soils in accordance with NYSDEC regulations and guidance,
5. maintenance of the existing perimeter fence until the buildings are removed from the site,
6. maintenance of the existing crushed stone protective cover in Area 24 will be required until such time that the contaminated soil under the protective cover is excavated and properly disposed off site at a permitted facility and that the remaining soil meets the SCGs. If at any time the soil in Area 24 does not meet the SCGs, a protective cover is required with annual certification to NYSDEC that it is being maintained. Acceptable alternative protective cover possibilities, in addition to the current stone cover, are sidewalks, parking lots, building footprints, or other approved strategies that provide a barrier to contact with the remaining PCB contaminated subsurface soils,
7. restriction of site uses to industrial/commercial purposes to prohibit certain land uses such as playgrounds, daycare facilities, medical facilities, residential, and recreational applications,
8. annual certification by the owner of the site to the NYSDEC that the institutional controls/deed restrictions are in place and enforced as required by the remedy.

The NYSDEC distributed a Fact Sheet on the remedy in February 2002 and conducted a public meeting on February 21, 2002. Comments from the public meeting are included in the Responsiveness Summary in the Record of Decision.

For More Information:

The Record of Decision and other site related documents are available at the following document repositories:

City of Utica Clerk's Office
City Office Building, 1st Floor
1 Kennedy Plaza
Utica, NY 13502 M-F 8am to4pm
(315) 792-0117

City of Utica Public Library
303 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
M, W, Th - 9am to 5:30 pm
(315) 735-2279

NYSDEC Central Office, 12th Floor
625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-7016
Telephone (518) 402-9775
Contact :Mr. John Durnin, Project Manager (518) 402-9775
M-F 8:30am to 4pm APPOINTMENT NEEDED

NYSDEC Region #6 Office
State Office Building
207 Genessee Street,
Utica, NY 13501
Contact: Mr. Jack Marsch
(315) 793-2554 M-F 8:30am to 4pm APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Please do not hesitate to contact the following staff member if you have questions about:

The Record of Decision:
NYSDEC Central Office
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7016
Contact :Mr .John Durnin, Project Manager (518) 402-9775
M-F 8:30am to 4pm APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Site Related Health Questions:
NYSDOH Herkimer District Office
5665 State Route 5
Herkimer, NY 13350
Contact: Mr. Greg Rys (315) 866-6879
M-F 8:30am to 4pm APPOINTMENT NEEDED

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